

In re Patent Application of:  
**TEGGE ET AL.**  
Serial No. 10/039,382  
Filing Date: 10/29/01

**REMARKS**

Claims 1, 3, 4-6, 8-10, 12, 14, 17-19, and 21-25 remain in this application. Claims 2, 13, 15, 16, 20 and 26 have been previously cancelled. Claims 6 and 23 have been amended.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the detailed study of the application and prior art. Applicants have amended claim 6 to recite further that the optical pump source pumps an optical pump signal through the stepped optical splitter circuit in the same direction as the optical signal entering the input optical filter.

Applicants note that the Examiner agrees that the combination of Ohtsuki and Funabashi does not disclose or suggest either singularly or in combination that the optical pump source can pump an optical pump signal through the stepped, optical splitter circuit in the same direction as the optical signal entering the input optical filter. Accordingly, independent claim 6 is in condition for allowance.

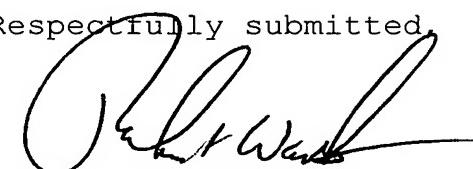
As to claim 23, it has now been amended to recite its dependency on claim 22.

Applicants contend that the present case is in condition for allowance and respectfully requests that the Examiner issue a Notice of Allowance and Issue Fee Due.

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If the Examiner has any questions or suggestions for placing this case in condition for allowance, the undersigned attorney would appreciate a telephone call.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: **MAIL STOP AF, COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P.O. BOX 1450, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450**, on this 8<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2004.

